EPISODE 1.8

STAR WARS
REBELLION

"REPRISAL"

Story

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STAR WARS: REBELLION

"REPRISAL"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – UNKNOWN SECTOR

A derelict Blockade Runner with Alliance markings drifts past the Star Destroyer *Atonement*. Severe carbon scoring along its hull is evidence of whatever battle disabled it.

Six figures in spacesuits drop from the *Atonement* and hit their thrusters. Hulda, Skatuhl, Avarese, Ube Tonnit, Bre and Moon make for a jagged opening in the ruined starship.

HULDA CAULP
(garbled)
Let's see if we can't fit in that hole. I'm reading slight gravitation past this breach. There's a minimal inertial spin before that, though, but nothing we can't handle.

COMMANDER AVARESE
(garbled)
Carbon scoring looks fresh. What was the name of this Blockade Runner again, Officer Bre?

BRE
(garbled)
Distress call didn't say, Commander. Hulda, I'm still picking up a few life forms inside. Don't figure how.

Hulda eases his lateral thrusters to slow his approach, carefully grabbing a sharp metal edge of the blast breach. He lifts his other arm and a glow rod extrudes from the underside of his wrist. Inside the starship, everything is twisted metal and broken cords. The glow rod illuminates an exposed passage in the distance, past the wreckage of the escape pod array.

SKATUHL
(garbled)
S’sis klek slekkit?

HULDA CAULP
(garbled)
They’re not answering our hails because this hole is where the communications station used to be.

The Star Destroyer *Atonement* matches speed with the Blockade Runner and follows along at a safe distance.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - BRIDGE

Admiral Mede enters from the turbolift elevators.

Destri is at the video kiosk, watching through one of the spacesuit cameras. The Technician is beside her, at the tactical grid, scanning the sector for enemies.

DESTRI
Commander, we’re picking up life form readings here, too, but we can’t locate them. Damage from the comm station is probably interfering with our sensors.

HULDA CAULP (V.O.)
(garbled)
Maybe the readings are just scrambled transmissions. All life support is gone.

DESTRI
Your best bet is the main computer. That’s the source of the distress call. Level three, corridor G-7.

TECHNICIAN
Whoever attacked them is long gone. No sublight heat-wake signatures anywhere.

MEDE
Captain Destri, we're looking at a trap. This vessel has no name, the damage to the communications station seems too convenient, and its captain should have had the same radio silence orders that High Command gave us.

BRE (V.O.)
I think we know why they violated them.

INT. DERELICT BLOCKADE RUNNER - PASSAGE

Bre, Moon, Hulda, and Ube Tonnit stare at all the dead Rebel Troopers floating in the low gravity around them. Skatuhl and Avarese enter from the rupture. The passage is actually a juncture point for several hallways.

HULDA CAULP
(garbled)
This is a Combine hit, not a trap.

COMMANDER AVARESE
(garbled)
Moon, you go with Bre to the main reactor. See if you can get the sealant fields back online.

Bre starts to move toward the rear of the ship. Moon politely pushes a Rebel Trooper out of the way and follows.

BRE
(garbled)
Then we'll hit the life support systems. Assuming reactor core's not dust.

COMMANDER AVARESE
(garbled)
Skatuhl, Tonnit, do a circuit of this level and see if we got company. Hulda comes with me to the main computer.

Everybody exits down a different hallway in pairs.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - BRIDGE

Destri's eyes flit from one monitor to the other. She talks to Mede without looking away from the vidscreen kiosk.

DESTRI
It could just be a retaliatory strike against the Rebellion in general.

BRE (V.O.)
(garbled)
Nope, it's a trap again.

ON BRE'S MONITOR, the main reactor core. All around the bulging power generator are small black spheres linked together with a spider web of colored wire.

BACK TO MAIN.

DESTRI
What is that?

BRE (V.O.)
(garbled)
Looks like a thermal-net around the reactor core. Just writing 'Bomb' on it would've been less obvious.

MEDE
You should have sent a probe droid to investigate, Destri. We do have those.

DESTRI
(annoyed)
A probe droid couldn't have helped any survivors. But you're right.

MEDE
I know.

DESTRI
Everyone out.

INT. DERELICT BLOCKADE RUNNER - MAIN COMPUTER ROOM

Hulda works quickly at a command console, powering up the main computer. Commander Avarese stands guard behind him in the open doorway, holding a blaster rifle.

HULDA CAULP
(garbled)
Hold on, Captain. The thermal-net detonation trigger is hooked into the main computer. I have enough time to bypass it.

DESTRI (V.O.)
Are you sure?

HULDA CAULP
(garbled)
I taught the Combine this trick.

Hulda types something more into the command console. Avarese turns around and frowns. He wants to go.

HULDA CAULP (CONT'D)
(garbled)
But Bre and Moon ought to move away from the reactor core, just in case. Commander Avarese, I need you to check auxiliary in the next station. I'm getting a power imbalance there that we--

COMMANDER AVARESE
(garbled)
Hulda.

A COMBINE SOLDIER in a spacesuit has appeared outside the doorway and raised a blaster to Avarese's midsection.

COMBINE SOLDIER
(garbled)
Drop the blaster.

Avarese lets his rifle go, which hangs steady in the air.

The Combine Soldier motions for Hulda and the Commander to back against the wall. Then he flips a few switches on the main computer's command console.

INT. DERELICT BLOCKADE RUNNER – HALLWAY

Two blast doors on either side of the hallway slam shut, blocking off Skatuhl and Ube Tonnit from escape.

INT. DERELICT BLOCKADE RUNNER – MAIN REACTOR

Bre and Moon turn around just in time to see the blast doors to the main reactor chamber close, trapping them inside with the thermal-net.

INT. DERELICT BLOCKADE RUNNER - MAIN COMPUTER ROOM

His blaster still trained on Hulda and Avarese, the Combine Soldier taps out a sequence of buttons on the command console. A grid of lights on a nearby panel comes to life.

INT. DERELICT BLOCKADE RUNNER – MAIN REACTOR

Each of the black spheres on the thermal-net BEEPS and then light up, the whole explosive array activated. Bre backs into Moon, who puts his hands on her padded shoulders.

BRE

Um.

INT. DERELICT BLOCKADE RUNNER - MAIN COMPUTER ROOM

The Combine Soldier pulls up another terminal pad from the command console and flips a row of switches on it. A vidscreen shows the escape pod access tunnel in vector graphics. An escape pod HIGHLIGHTS and powers up.

Hulda and Commander Avarese look around the room and consider their options. None.

Then the faceplate of the Combine Soldier's spacesuit helmet cracks slightly. His eyes look down in confusion and with a quickly mounting fear.

ENDIGO (O.S.)
(garbled)
Let them go.

Endigo enters through the doorway, spacesuit on and unarmed. The Combine Soldier moves his blaster from Hulda and Commander Avarese to Endigo. His faceplate cracks some more.

ENDIGO (CONT'D)
(garbled)
You can still take the escape pod.

The Combine Soldier hesitates. Endigo narrows his eyes. The faceplate is suddenly a jigsaw puzzle of micro-fractures.

ENDIGO (CONT'D)
(garbled)
You have five minutes air left.
Assuming I stop.

The Combine Soldier runs out of the room, Endigo moving out of his way. Hulda quickly goes to the command console to deactivate the thermal-net.

HULDA CAULP
(garbled)
Good to see you, Skip.

INT. DERELICT BLOCKADE RUNNER – MAIN REACTOR

Bre relaxes as the black spheres stop blinking.

MOON
(garbled)
Hmm. I think I have yet to meet Skip.

Bre moves to the reactor core and works to get it online.

BRE
(garbled)
Betting you guys get along <u>real</u> good.

INT. DERELICT BLOCKADE RUNNER - MAIN COMPUTER ROOM

Endigo helps Hulda with the command console.

HULDA CAULP
(garbled)
Good work, Bre. Sealant fields are active.

ENDIGO
(garbled)
Hulda, I got life form decoys on sublevel two. Sixteen days detention and it's you that's getting rusty.

COMMANDER AVARESE
(garbled)
Endigo, you're under arrest.

Avarese has reclaimed his blaster rifle. Endigo turns around and lifts his hands. Hulda just stares in disbelief as the vector escape pod on the vidscreen launches.

EXT. SPACE – UNKNOWN SECTOR

The escape pod tumbles away from the Blockade Runner.

INT. DERELICT BLOCKADE RUNNER - MAIN COMPUTER ROOM

Hulda moves to protect Endigo, but Shen pushes him away gently. He has expected this. Commander Avarese doesn't seem afraid of Endigo at all.

COMMANDER AVARESE
(garbled)
Sixteen days doesn't equal three weeks, planet I'm from.

Destri appears on the vidscreen.

DESTRI
Commander Avarese, stand down immediately.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - BRIDGE

Admiral Mede crosses his arms and watches the vidscreen kiosk. He sees Endigo through the Commander's helmet camera, and he isn't happy.

MEDE
Belay that order, Commander. Keep the prisoner in custody. Mr. Endigo, your insubordination gets you another month in the brig, and this time under guard.
(to Destri)
Captain, tractor beam the Blockade Runner and pull it into the hangar. Then get my ship out of this sector.

Admiral Mede exits.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – UNKNOWN SECTOR

The Star Destroyer *Atonement* falls out of hyperspace.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - ADMIRAL'S QUARTERS

Mede is at his desk, reviewing something on a datapad, when the blast door to his quarters SWISHES open. The TRILL happens a half-second later. Hulda has already stomped into the room.

HULDA CAULP
Where do you get off--

MEDE
Enter.

HULDA CAULP
Shen saved my life out there!

MEDE
And I'm glad of it. Hello, Officer Bre, Two-Tau, Sir Mimuné.

Moon and Bre rush into the Admiral's quarters. Two-Tau ducks his head down to look through the door, too big to fit inside.

MEDE (CONT'D)
Have you all prepared your pleas on Mr. Endigo's behalf? Hulda here was just starting his and getting nowhere.

HULDA CAULP
Mede, I swear to--

MOON
I've not yet had the pleasure to meet Mr. Endigo yet, Admiral.

BRE
Hulda.

HULDA CAULP
Let him out.

MEDE
In thirty days, I will. Plus the five he still owes me for--

HULDA CAULP
Let him out, Admiral, or--

MEDE
Or you'll do nothing of the sort.

Mede presses a button on his desk.

MEDE (CONT'D)
Security.

Two-Tau's handcannons suddenly WHIRR, WHINE, and KLANK into place, pointed at Hulda. Moon grabs Bre and covers her.

BRE
No, Two-Tau.

TWO-TAU
Ee-chootah impsu!

BRE
Ee-chootah not a chance, see.

Rebel Security Officers squeeze past Two-Tau and enter. Hulda looks back as they raise their blasters at him. He looks at the Admiral. Mede's face is a stone.

HULDA CAULP
You want a mutiny?

MEDE
Ah, the magic word. Take him away.

The Rebel Security Officers move towards Hulda. Bre struggles out of Moon's grasp and slaps her hands down on the Admiral's desk. The Rebel Security Officers pause.

BRE
Please don't do this, Admiral. He didn't mean it.

HULDA CAULP
I damn well did.

BRE
Shut up.

MEDE
Officer Bre, please go to your quarters.

BRE
Listen here, Mede.

Beat. Bre winces. She takes her hands off the desk.

BRE (CONT'D)
Sorry.

MEDE
Yes, Mr. Endigo saved all of your lives. Yes, I am being an authoritarian tyrant. Yes, this conversation is over.

BRE
Yes, this isn't the Imperial Navy anymore.

MEDE
Officer Bre, do you want to know what the consequences of striking a ranking officer with a deadly weapon really are? Even by Old Republic standards?

BRE
Um, I wasn't even alive then.

MEDE
I'm sure. See this, then, as your cue to study up on the officer's manual. I had every right to send Mr. Endigo to--

HULDA CAULP
We quit.

MEDE
What?

HULDA CAULP
The *Long Haulers*, we quit.

MEDE
I have a contract that says otherwise. Signed by Mr. Endigo himself. Would you care to read it, particularly the terms and conditions of a breach of contract?

HULDA CAULP
Go to hell, Mede.

Hulda starts to exit. No one stops him.

MEDE
You're a professional, Mr. Caulp. Calm down and you'll realize it.

HULDA CAULP
I've got a better idea.

Hulda exits. Bre follows, glancing helplessly back at the Admiral. Mede has already gone back to reading his datapad.

MOON
Admiral, the Jedi were arbitrators in olden times, as you know. Perhaps I--

MEDE
This conversation--

MOON
--is over. You repeat yourself. I heard you fine. Everyone did. Your stern countenance really impressed us all.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - BRIDGE

Destri, the Technician, and Commander Avarese look at a diagram of the Blockade Runner on the tactical grid.

COMMANDER AVARESE
Scanner team identified it as the *Noon Union V*. Ostensibly they were just on a regulation patrol of the Eriadu border worlds. Then the Combine attacked.

Cull enters.

DESTRI
When High Command gives us the signal radio silence is over, we'll inform them. Meanwhile, get engineering on it.
(to Technician)
See to it that all Alliance casualties are properly identified and then taken to cold storage.

CULL
Hey, Avarese.

DESTRI
Cull, I won't have this on the bridge.

COMMANDER AVARESE
Yeah, let's take it down to mess hall. I'll show you the up-close details on some of the plates.

CULL
You can't take the fact you let some Combine goon just step up and remind you that your eyes old--

THWACK! Commander Avarese knocks Cull unconscious.

Bre enters. She sees Cull on the floor and shakes her head.

BRE
Just left this party.

Destri motions for some Bridge Officers to pick up Cull. Then she shoves Avarese against the tactical grid.

DESTRI
You escort Cull to Med Lab. You cover this up. You worry about my report.

Destri lets him go. The Commander helps the Bridge Officers pull Cull to the turbolift elevators.

BRE
Destri, will you talk to the Admiral about Shen?

DESTRI
Drop it.

BRE
Tet, come on!

Destri grabs Bre by the scruff of the neck.

DESTRI
Look, Bre. You're not Hocce's little girl running around the TDF spaceport getting away with murder anymore! You're--

Bre punches Destri in the stomach. The Captain lets go.

BRE
Are you crazy? Keep your hands off me!

Destri suddenly has tears in her eyes. She reaches her arm out to Bre, who's already backing away to the elevator.

BRE (CONT'D)
You killed him! Don't think I don't know! You ordered him to do it!

DESTRI
Bre...Chori...I'm--

BRE
Keep your hands off me! 'We cannot let them have those coordinates, Captain Bre!' Don't think I don't know!

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - ELEVATOR

Moon is already in the turbolift elevator when Bre backs inside. The door shuts. There is a slight rumble as the turbolift pod descends.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - CORRIDOR A

Hulda walks through a corridor lined with HUMMING power converters. He stops. He thinks. He makes up his mind.

ON HULDA'S WRIST CONTROLS, as he types out a command.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – POWER CORE

Skatuhl pushes a cart of spent energy cells across the power core towards an incinerator. Then she looks up.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – SIMULATOR BAY

Ube Tonnit enters a scenario program into the podium. One of the simulator pods HISSES open. The Bith casually walks over to enter it. Then he looks up.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – MESS HALL

The Jix Brothers and DREBBLES, a midnight-hued Dug, are throwing back food in the mess hall, off-duty Rebel Officers all around them. Then they look up.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - MED LAB

Cull is holding his head, pushing a medical droid away. Then he gets up, groaning but ready.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - HANGAR BAY

Several *Long Haulers* are helping with the loading and unloading of cargo, the prepping of starfighters, the repair of freighters, TIE Fighter racks, power grids, containment barrels. In unison, they look up and then at each other all across the bay. They slowly begin to move to the *Big Black Mariah*.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - ADMIRAL'S QUARTERS

Mede is still reviewing his datapad when the Technician's voice comes over his command console. Automatically, the double-sided vidscreen folds out at the center of the desk.

TECHNICIAN (V.O.)
Admiral, we have an incoming message from High Command.

MEDE
I'll take it here.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - DETENTION LEVEL

Hulda approaches two Detention Guards standing outside of Endigo's cell. They see him coming.

HULDA CAULP
Get back and you don't get hurt.

Detention Guard One sounds the ALARM while Detention Guard Two pulls out his blaster. Drebbles drops down from the ceiling, landing on his arms, kicking both Detention Guards in the groins. When they buckle down, he kicks both of their faces. Their helmets CLANG off the detention level's walls and they're finished. Drebbles then uses a toe to open the cell. Endigo comes out, catches a datapad that Hulda tosses him. They exit.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - BRIDGE

Destri looks over to the Technician as the ALARM continues.

TECHNICIAN
Endigo.

DESTRI
Yellow alert.

TECHNICIAN
Endigo.

DESTRI
Right. Red alert. Get every corridor to the hangar bay secure.

Destri starts to exit.

TECHNICIAN
Captain, where--

DESTRI
I'm going to the hangar bay.

TECHNICIAN
But you just--

DESTRI
As if they're not going to get there?

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - CORRIDOR B

Endigo, Hulda, Drebbles, Skatuhl, and Cull march down the corridor, the alarms going off all around them. Avarese appears at the end of the corridor, blaster out.

COMMANDER AVARESE
Just give me an excuse to shoot.

Awkwardly, Avarese puts his blaster to the roof of his own open mouth. Endigo walks by without breaking stride.

ENDIGO
You got one.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – NEAR HANGAR BAY

Security Officers wait in a subsection outside the bay.

WHITE OUT.

When the flash bomb clears, Ube Tonnit joins up with Endigo, Hulda, Skatuhl, Drebbles, and Cull. Together, they make for the hangar bay, where an army is waiting for them. Bre, Moon, and Two-Tau step out before they can get there.

ENDIGO
Bre. Don’t.

MOON
This is the famous Mr. Endigo you’re so enamored of? This swaggering thug is--

Endigo ignites his lightsaber and raises it. He stares at Moon and they lock eyes. Suddenly, Moon is terrified. He falls to his knees, shaking. Bre moves to help him.

BRE
Moon?

MOON
A...Sith...Sith spawned. He....

Two-Tau CLANGS forward and levels his handcannons.

TWO-TAU
Komayhee chut too tah!

HULDA CAULP
Two-Tau, you remember when I backed up your memory tapes?

Hulda walks forward. Two-Tau's handcannons start vibrating.

TWO-TAU
EE-CHOOTAH!

HULDA CAULP
Actually, do you remember when I put them back in?

Hulda lifts his wrist controls and hits a button. Two-Tau's body is wracked with SPARKING ELECTRICITY and energy short outs. He crashes onto the floor. Bre lets go of Moon and goes to hold Two-Tau's smoking husk. She's crying when she pulls out her blaster and points it at Hulda.

BRE
Who are you?

Skatuhl's tail knocks the blaster out of her hand as everyone passes her by.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – HANGAR BAY

Destri's army parts to let Endigo and Hulda get close to her. She has her blaster out. The *Big Black Mariah* is surrounded, but Endigo sees his people inside and smiles.

DESTRI
Shen, you're under arrest.

ENDIGO
(slowly)
No, we're not.

DESTRI
Give me a break. You're nowhere in the same league as he is, and you're not getting past me. Go back to your cell or you die here. I'll send a copy of your contract to refresh your memory.

Endigo lifts a datapad showing the Blockade Runner. The thermal-net section is HIGHLIGHTED. Captain Destri starts to lose her resolve and looks over to the *Noon Union V*.

ENDIGO
Destri, I'll show you what we can breach. Remember the thermal-net?

DESTRI
You wouldn't.

HULDA CAULP
Considering Bre got the main reactor up and running, I'm thinking that kind of blast will break this Imperial bucket in half.

MEDE (O.S.)
Enough!

The army parts again to let the Admiral through. Efdee follows behind him, WARBLING. Endigo deactivates his lightsaber and turns towards Mede. They head straight for each other.

ENDIGO
We're through here, Mede.

MEDE
Not even close.

ENDIGO
Don't make me kill you.

MEDE
Believe me, you won't.

ENDIGO
Last warning, old man.

MEDE
Lesson time, boy. Lesson one: always honor the conditions of your contracts. I believe yours was, and I quote, 'get me another chance at Vader.'

Efdee floats up and projects the image of the Dark Lord between them. Endigo stops and looks at the hologram.

ENDIGO
Where is he?

MEDE
Details later.

ENDIGO
What's the catch?

MEDE
Not one. We kill him instead of each other. And we forget about all of this until it's done.

ENDIGO
And then?

MEDE
Then you go back to detention and serve out your sentence. And every mutineer gets sixty days to ponder what it means to defy me.

Beat. Endigo puts the datapad in his belt pouch.

ENDIGO
Deal.

MEDE
Subsection Eighteen. One hour, people. I'll make crewmen out of you yet.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – KIRA RUN

The *Atonement* glides through a crystal-filled cloud of a long-gone dioxin meteor shower, ice eddies along its trail.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – SUBSECTION EIGHTEEN

The tension in the briefing room is off the scale. The *Long Haulers* and the Rebels try not to stare at each other with hate or hurt feelings. Cull, standing above and behind Avarese, is silently fuming, trying to keep his fur from rippling too much. No one looks at Endigo and Hulda at all. Destri notices Bre's absence, but a look from Moon tells her everything is as well as it can be, considering the circumstances. Things are not well on the ISD *Atonement*.

And Mede is somewhat glad of it.

The Admiral, standing on the podium overlooking the holoprojector, seems to be gathering all the stress and kept-in-check rage, purposely manifesting himself as the eye of the hurricane; to be supreme, one must first be the stable center.

The Technician enters.

TECHNICIAN
Senator Antilles is telesending now.

MEDE
Thank you. Senator, we are here.

A DISTORTED holo-display of Senator Antilles appears at the center of the room. He bows to Mede, an anomaly in the image feed making his movements awkward and unevenly spaced, skipping frames as he talks and gestures.

SENATOR ANTILLES
Admiral Mede, I have no idea how well I am coming through. SpecForce suggested I try this experimental ghostband telesender to keep the Empire from picking up a possible holographic transmission bleed. Whatever that is.

The Technician steps forward as if to explain, but the Admiral waves him off.

MEDE
You're coming through fine enough, Senator.

SENATOR ANTILLES
That’s good. Madine and Carplin still haven’t lifted the radio silence order. We’ve already uncovered a dozen Imperial informants within the Core systems operations.

MEDE
How much longer can we expect to be cut off from High Command?

SENATOR ANTILLES
Unfortunately, I cannot answer that. And, personally, I feel it has cost us more than it has gained. Some of the borderland Rebel cells see it as a heavy-handed maneuver to keep us from addressing their individual resource crisis issues.

ENDIGO
Getting to the good part.

SENATOR ANTILLES
Yes, Mr. Endigo. Our own error has prompted one of equal magnitude from the Empire. An Alliance cell on the world of Pothor has decided to secede. To this end, they have opened negotiations with the planet’s government. In return for a full Imperial pardon, they will hand over all documents related to their association with the Rebellion. While they are a remote cell, Pothor still has uncharted hyperlanes we use, equipment and spaceworthy vessels we need, and, most importantly, echelon data of our Outer Rim Territories cell network structure. If we--

The Senator DISTORTS and winks out. The Technician readjusts something on the holoprojector.

MEDE
Are you still there, Senator?

SENATOR ANTILLES
I've lost visual.

TECHNICIAN
The holoprojector is having trouble coping with the new ghostband processor.

SENATOR ANTILLES (V.O.)
Well, then, I'll cut to the quick. The Imperial Emissary in charge of these negotiations is Darth Vader.

The Senator pauses. Moon excuses himself from the room, looking troubled. Antilles DISTORTS back into view.

SENATOR ANTILLES (CONT'D)
He is to arrive at Pothor by tomorrow. Intel has managed to find out that he has a considerable escort but, with a little ingenuity, I think your people can break through it.

ENDIGO
Are you authorizing a hit or not?

SENATOR ANTILLES
High Command wants these negotiations stopped. How you handle it is up to you... but no one here will <u>miss</u> Vader.

The Senator starts DISTORTING back and forth into view. He sighs as if tired of this technical skulking.

SENATOR ANTILLES (CONT'D)
Vader is only half of the problem, though. There is still the matter of the secession. We are sending a supply vessel to the Pothor cell as a gesture of good faith and a promise that things will get better. It will have to dock at the *Atonement* until our situation is resolved, since the cell leader has cut off contact with us. I really cannot blame her.

MEDE
Beam us the rendezvous coordinates in the Pothor system. By the time the supply ship arrives, we should have the area secured.

SENATOR ANTILLES
I'm sending you the coordinates now. You'll be out of the Empire's estimated sensor range. Admiral?

MEDE
Yes, Senator?

SENATOR ANTILLES
I caution you to be careful. We <u>are</u> talking about Darth Vader.

MEDE
Don't worry, Senator. My people can handle anything.

SENATOR ANTILLES
Good luck to you. Antilles out.

The Senator DISTORTS out for the last time. Mede looks at everyone in the room. His eyes rest on Endigo.

MEDE
Let's see if the Dark Lord's lightsaber can deflect an orbital turbolaser....

Endigo smiles and moves to replace the Admiral on the podium. Endigo brings up schematics of a city on Pothor.

ENDIGO
Pothor. Short version.
(pointing to a building)
Negotiation hall is here.
(pointing somewhere else)
This is the spaceport where Vader is going to land.
(pointing to a point in between)
He doesn't even make it <u>this</u> far. Any questions? No? Good. Commander Avarese will tell you the rest.

EXT. SPACE – KIRA RUN

The *Atonement* launches into hyperspace.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – MOON'S QUARTERS

Bre sits huddled on the floor when Moon enters.

MOON
You missed all the excitement, dear.

BRE
I have that room bugged. Kill Vader, save the Rebellion.

MOON
I guess it does boil down to that, doesn't it?

BRE
Quit listening after that. Who are you really, Moon?

MOON
Bre, I must ask your forgiveness.

BRE
What for?

MOON
I cannot join you on this little outing.

BRE
Who says I'm going?

MOON
Commander Avarese. After Mr. Endigo gave his man-of-few-words vainglory briefing, the Commander got into specifics. We were to be the primaries of the forward scouts...
(beat)
...but I have refused to accompany you.

BRE
How come?

MOON
I sense that my presence will endanger you. Vader will feel the all-powerful tremor that follows my every step.

Bre gets up and starts for the door. Moon swallows.

MOON (CONT'D)
I hope you are not angry with me. I do this only to protect you better.

BRE
I'll make it fine.

MOON
May the Force be with you, my--

Bre exits before he can finish. Moon hangs his head.

MOON (CONT'D)
Craven lily hearted dastard. In face a rancor, yet underneath a runagate.
(looking up)
So you talk to me again. Finally.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - BRIDGE

Mede and Destri look into the BLUE-WHITE CORRIDOR of hyperspace. Destri bites her lower lip.

MEDE
Out with it, Captain.

DESTRI
What?

MEDE
The biting of the lower lip has become a signal I recognize as 'Destri's apprehension.'

DESTRI
I know you know.

MEDE
You are worried that I plan to punish Officer Bre for striking you, then.

DESTRI
Yes.

MEDE
I was leaving that for you.

DESTRI
Thank you, sir.

MEDE
Captain, it is my recommendation that you do punish her. An officer must realize that this is a crew, not a surrogate family.

Destri glances over at the Admiral and tries to restrain her exasperation. Mede looks down at a Bridge Officer, who nods. Mede starts to exit.

MEDE (CONT'D)
Inform Avarese that we're an hour out of Pothor, Captain.

Destri can't stop herself.

DESTRI
So in this concept of 'crew' that you have, Mede-- do you hug and kiss every officer that comes back after a particularly dangerous mission, or just the ones that remind you of your daughter?

Mede exits.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - HANGAR BAY

Two-Tau, Bre, and Efdee board the Blockade Runner. Hulda stares at Bre until she looks over, when he turns to see:

Endigo and Cull enter.

ENDIGO
Yeah, there's going to be a lot of patching up to do.

HULDA CAULP
Poor Bre. Kid trusted us. So, what did Avarese think of your plan?

COMMANDER AVARESE (O.S.)
It's too reckless, but what the hell.

The Commander enters along with two full squadrons of Rebel Troopers. The Rebel Troopers load up into an Assault Shuttle. Avarese holds out his hand to the Bothan. Cull takes it after a second. Avarese smiles at Endigo.

COMMANDER AVARESE (CONT'D)
It certainly will make an impression.

ENDIGO
What's this, no hard feelings or something?

COMMANDER AVARESE
Hell no, I'm just following orders. Admiral says we forget about everything until Vader's dead. After that, I'm throwing you back in the brig myself.

Endigo smirks as Avarese goes to an awaiting Y-Wing. The *Noon Union V* fires up and leaves the hangar.

Skatuhl enters and GROWLS something. Endigo, Hulda, and Cull look over to the end of the hangar bay. A gigantic trapezoidal drop ship is slowly moving out of its dock on a repulsor field.

ENDIGO
Hulda, you sure you guys can even drive an AT-AT?

EXT. SPACE – POTHOR SYSTEM

Four Y-Wings escort the AT-AT dropship and the Assault Shuttles out of the *Atonement* and into the far distance.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - BRIDGE

Destri watches the BLIPS on the tactical grid move toward the disc-like representation of Pothor. She looks over to a BRIDGE OFFICER.

DESTRI
Where's the Check Officer?

BRIDGE OFFICER
Still in Subsection Eighteen, I believe.

DESTRI
(into a console)
Check Officer, I need you on the bridge.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - SUBSECTION EIGHTEEN

The Technician looks up from the holoprojector at a frozen, distorted frame of Senator Antilles. He frowns and pulls out his comlink.

TECHNICIAN
Coming, Captain.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - BRIDGE

Destri pulls up the schematics of Pothor City. A small modulating ring outside the city shows Bre's location.

DESTRI
How are we doing, Bre?

EXT. POTHOR - OUTSIDE POTHOR CITY - DAY

Pothor is a garden world, green and lush. Bre leans over a grassy ridge looking at a city a kilometer away through her macrobinoculars. Two-Tau is hidden behind a tree, but not very well. Efdee floats about, his sensor array exposed.

MACROBINOCULAR POV: a natural ravine separates Pothor City from a forest leading up to it. The city is low-walled and looks like any other backwater colonial outpost.

PAN ACROSS from a bridge over the ravine, protected by Scout Walkers and a squadron of troopers, to a relatively small spaceport. The negotiation hall actually looks like a large City Council building, marble and Old Republican, and it is separated from the spaceport by a wide road. The Imperials have cordoned of that road with Troop Transports, Battle Tanks, and Imperial Stormtroopers.

PAN UP to the washout of the sun, where black blurs quickly materialize into a *Lambda*-class Imperial Shuttle and a TIE Fighter escort.

BRE (O.S.)
Vader’s shuttle is landing now. Efdee says we haven’t been detected and aren’t likely to be. The Imperials must be pushing these negotiations along quickly, while Pothor is still cut off from the rest of us. They’re only using the native sensors, which look imported and older than the Admiral.

BACK TO MAIN. Bre puts down her macrobinoculars and picks up her comlink.

BRE (CONT’D)
Avarese? Read my coordinates and find that clearing behind me. And hurry. It looks like the city’s governor is preparing a reception committee. If we want our shot, it’s best we do it while Vader’s in the open.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - BRIDGE

The Technician enters and joins Destri by the tactical grid. SIGNALS OFFICER comes over from sensor control.

SIGNALS OFFICER
We’re picking up the Alliance supply ship coming out of lightspeed at close proximity.

DESTRI
Prepare hangar bay B for their arrival.
(to Technician)
Where were you? Take the tactical grid.

TECHNICIAN
Sorry, Captain. I was trying to figure out the experimental ghostband tele--

DESTRI
Bre: Avarese and Endigo are landing and deploying now. Keep them informed.

TECHNICIAN
Captain, could you spare two minutes for me to show you something strange?

DESTRI
Bridge to Admiral Mede, we need you up here for two minutes.

MEDE (V.O.)
Yes, Captain.

EXT. POTHOR - OUTSIDE POTHOR CITY - DAY

Commander Avarese, Endigo, and JIMDIM COLBALT, a human Rebel with a long-barreled BlasTech sniper rifle, have joined Bre on the ridge.

Cobalt has the sniper rifle trained on someone in the city. Endigo’s cybernetic eye adjusts itself for telescopic range, CLICKING. Avarese looks back towards the clearing and pulls out a comlink.

COBALT
Come on. Step out. Everything’s fine. Pretty day, isn’t it? Kind you like.

COMMANDER AVARESE
Hulda, Bons, Finn, and Selko: sitrep right now. Knocking out Vader doesn’t knock them all out. I want you to assure me we can take the whole city.

EXT. POTHOR - CLEARING - DAY

Rebel Troopers pour out of the Assault Shuttles and muster up behind their field leaders. Two engineers are overseeing the opening of the AT-AT drop ship, which splits down the center to reveal the crouched Imperial Walker inside. The Y-Wings present still haven't turned off sublight engines yet, a DULL WHINE over the proceedings.

INT. AT-AT - COCKPIT - DAY

Hulda and Skatuhl watch in wonderment as the land beneath them falls away when they stand the AT-AT upright.

SKATUHL
Slaaka slaaka damn.

HULDA CAULP
Avarese, we're way past ready.

EXT. SPACE – POTHOR SYSTEM

The Alliance supply ship sets course for the ISD *Atonement*.

INT. STAR DESTROYER ATONEMENT - SUBSECTION EIGHTEEN

The Technician flips through frames of the Senator's recent briefing, stabilizing each one. Destri doesn't understand.

DESTRI
Two minutes is over. Tell me what I was supposed to notice.

TECHNICIAN
Captain, this is a regular hologram, not anything experimental. If you clear up the resolution on each frame you can see that there are slight variations on the Senator's clothing, hair, jewelry-- hell, stubble even. That was why there was so much distortion, to screen these discrepancies. Put that together with a good voice match and--

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - BRIDGE

Mede is surprised to hear the ALARM go off again.

DESTRI (V.O.)
Admiral, it's a trap! All of it! Do not let that supply ship land!

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - HANGAR BAY

It already has.

EXT. POTHOR - OUTSIDE POTHOR CITY - DAY

SNIPER SCOPE POV: Vader and a host of Imperial dignitaries have met with the Pothor governor and his assistants just outside the spaceport.

BACK TO MAIN. Endigo's eye CLICKS again. He shakes his head slowly.

COBALT
Got a shot, Commander.

ENDIGO
That ain't him.

COMMANDER AVARESE
Take it.

SNIPER SCOPE POV: A MUFFLED REPORT as Vader's helmet cracks open as his body falls, revealing a flimsy mechanical skull. Endigo is right. It's not him. It's a droid.

OFF-SCREEN, Two-Tau's handcannons start BLASTING AWAY.

BACK TO MAIN. Out of nowhere, a wing of TIE Bombers ROAR over the scene. Endigo grabs Bre and tumbles down the ridge as Avarese and Cobalt dive for cover.

COMMANDER AVARESE (CONT'D)
Move! We've been jammed! They're onto--

WHITE OUT as MULTIPLE BOMBARDMENT BLASTS overtake the scene.

EXT. POTHOR - CLEARING - DAY

BOMBARDMENT BLASTS take out two of the Y-Wings and one of the Assault Shuttles. Rebel Troopers disperse or disappear in earth-shattering EXPLOSIONS.

The AT-AT swings its head and takes a few shots, but the TIE Bombers are too quick.

Another ROAR barely precedes more BOMBARDMENT BLASTS. The Rebels begin to flee, SCREAMING out from the rising smoke.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - HANGAR BAY

The supply ship's landing ramp opens, letting Imperial Stormtroopers file out into the bay.

Darth Vader steps down the ramp just as the firing begins.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. POTHOR - CLEARING - DAY

FOLLOWING TIE BOMBER as it makes another pass at the scattering Rebels. An EXPLOSION takes out the second Assault Shuttle. Then the AT-AT scores a direct hit.

WHITE OUT.

INT. AT-AT - COCKPIT - DAY

Hulda looks away from the hanging wreckage in the sky and moves the Imperial Walker up towards the ridge.

EXT. POTHOR - OUTSIDE POTHOR CITY - DAY

Endigo, Bre, and Cobalt have fallen from the ridge and taken cover behind an upturned tree. Cobalt is dead from shrapnel, his armor shredded. Bre has his sniper rifle, firing at the stormtroopers rushing across the bridge.

BRE
They've got our position.

A Battle Tank on the bridge fires. Something above them EXPLODES, foliage raining down on Endigo while he shouts into his transceiver.

ENDIGO
Hulda! Come kill the bridge!

Bre scores a headshot. A stormtrooper falls into the ravine. She scores another when a second stormtrooper watches the first one plummet.

HULDA CAULP (V.O.)
On our way, Shen, but we got another army coming up behind us!

ENDIGO
What?

A great shadow falls over Endigo and Bre as the towering AT-AT emerges to stand on the ridge above them. It fires. The bridge EXPLODES.

Bre looks up from the riflescope.

BRE
Guess I'm done.

ENDIGO
Watch out.

TIE Bombers ROAR by, BLASTING the ridge. The earth gives out and the AT-AT starts to topple forward. Hulda tries to steer it from the edge, but it slips over on its left side.

Endigo and Bre start to panic. The Walker is coming straight down on top of them.

Endigo ignites his lightsaber and holds it up, pulling Bre against him with his other arm. The AT-AT is right above them. Endigo's swings his lightsaber around in a circular VORP!

QUICK CUT TO:

INT. AT-AT - MAIN HOLD

Bre and Endigo are alive, kneeling in the darkened, sideways hold. His metal back barely supports the armored section he cut out of the AT-AT, which hangs off of him at an angle, the edges still red from the saber. Bre's eyes are wide as Endigo GROANS to support the weight. Cargo and weaponry fall from the wall above them, now the roof, and crash everywhere.

HULDA CAULP (O.S.)
So the answer's no, we <u>can't</u> drive it.

Hulda and Skatuhl crawl out from the ruined neck corridor.

BRE
Wow.

ENDIGO
(grunting)
I <u>could</u> use some help here....

Commander Avarese comes over his transceiver as Hulda and Skatuhl help him push the armored plating to the floor.

COMMANDER AVARESE (V.O.)
I need everyone at the south end! We're being surrounded!

Endigo, Bre, Hulda, and Skatuhl start to exit to the rear of the AT-AT. Bre looks back at the hole Endigo cut.

ENDIGO
I know. Wow. Now come on-- Hulda, Skatuhl, go help Commander Avarese. Bre, we have to get back to the *Atonement*. Mede and Destri are in trouble.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – HANGAR BAY

No one is alive. A few stormtrooper bodies litter the area in front of the supply ship's landing ramp. Several Rebel Security Officers lay dead around the hangar bay, especially near the exit.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – CORRIDOR A

More bodies: Rebels on the ground behind pylons and crates and on top of each other. A stormtrooper with blackened chest armor is sprawled at the corridor's exit.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – CORRIDOR B

Closer to the bridge now and even more bodies, but these are fresh. Blaster impact marks are smoking.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – BRIDGE

Mede and Destri are on their knees, choking to death, Vader standing imperiously above them. The other Bridge Officers stand along the walls, hands behind their heads, guarded by stormtroopers while others search them for weapons. Vader looks down at the Admiral.

VADER
I trust that I have your attention.

EXT. POTHOR - CLEARING - DAY

It is chaos in the clearing, Avarese and the Rebels pinned down by an advancing Imperial army of Battle Tanks and squadrons of stormtroopers. The Rebels are using the AT-AT dropship as cover, but its hull is taking massive damage.

A brief CHEER comes up when Selko and Finn go by in their Y-Wings, BOMBING the front line of the Imperial army.

Hulda and Skatuhl enter from the up the ridge.

COMMANDER AVARESE
I was hoping to see you in an <u>AT-AT</u>.

Hulda shrugs an apology before an EXPLOSION makes everyone dive for cover. The Y-Wings vector in on the TIE Bombers.

INT. SELKO'S Y-WING - COCKPIT - DAY

Selko blasts a TIE Bomber, which rolls into the distance.

SELKO
Commander, we'll keep these guys busy until the *Atonement* sends another wing.

HULDA CAULP (V.O.)
That's not going to happen, Selko.

EXT. POTHOR - CLEARING - DAY

Avarese takes a shot while screaming over at Hulda.

COMMANDER AVARESE
How do you know that?

HULDA CAULP
Endigo said so.

COMMANDER AVARESE
How does <u>he</u> know that?

HULDA CAULP
Same way he knew <u>we</u> were in trouble on the Blockade Runner.

Skatuhl jumps over and tackles Hulda to the ground just as the place he was standing ERUPTS with artillery fire. They land in a smoking crater. Stormtroopers appear out of the smoke, leveling their blasters at them.

Two-Tau's handcannons WHINE behind Hulda and Skatuhl, and the stormtroopers on the crater's lip disappear. The Combat Droid then looks down at Hulda.

HULDA CAULP
Er, thanks, Two-Tau. Now about before--

Two-Tau fires again. Hulda screams until he sees that the droid just shot his wrist controls off, destroying them. Two-Tau leans his head down to Hulda and taps it.

HULDA CAULP (CONT'D)
Right now?

Hulda sighs, opens up the droid's head, and gets to work.

The Imperial army bears down on the Rebels. Avarese tries to think of a way out. He pulls out his comlink.

COMMANDER AVARESE
Everyone into the dropship! We'll take our chances! Selko, carve us a road!

Several camouflaged-painted X-Wings lay down a barrage of proton torpedo BOMBARDMENT BLASTS. The Imperial army's advance is temporarily halted.

INT. SELKO'S Y-WING - COCKPIT - DAY

Selko looks up in surprise at the new starfighters.

SELKO
Who the hell?

X-WING PILOT ONE (V.O.)
Welcome to Pothor. We're the local scum. Don't mention it.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE - ABOVE POTHOR

The Y-Wings escort the battered dropship off of Pothor.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – BRIDGE

Mede and Destri are on their faces, barely conscious. Vader turns as Bulloc, former Captain of the ISD *Reprisal*, and LIEUTENANT ODET enter, with two stormtroopers half-dragging a cowering Moon between them.

BULLOC
We have him, milord.

MEDE
Moon?

LIEUTENANT ODET
They've erased the location of the Rebel Base from their main computer, Lord Vader.

VADER
That is of no concern to me. I have what I came for. Any one of these prisoners will be happy to tell us those coordinates. I'm sure you can handle things from here, Captain Bulloc. Consider the *Atonement* as recompense for the *Reprisal*.

BULLOC
Thank you, Lord Vader.

MOON
This is all really unnecessary....

Vader exits with Moon and the two stormtroopers. Bulloc smiles broadly and walks slowly over to Mede, who has risen to his knees.

LIEUTENANT ESTAPA enters and salutes Captain Bulloc, who does not look up from his contemplation of Mede.

LIEUTENANT ESTAPA
Captain Bulloc, sir, we have secured port decks subsections twelve through fifteen, but we are spread thin. Shall I order an assault on the Engineering core, or concentrate on flushing out the remaining--

BULLOC
Not <u>now</u>, Lieutenant.

Bulloc weighs his blaster in his hand for a moment, then, WHACK! He cracks Mede across the face with it.

BULLOC (CONT'D)
<u>That</u> was for my ship!

WHACK! Mede's face explodes with blood.

BULLOC (CONT'D)
That was for my career!

WHACK! Mede's eye splits. Bulloc's officers look nervous.

LIEUTENANT ODET
Uh, Captain Bulloc, it is dangerous to leave the enemy in control of--

BULLOC
Lieutenant Odet. Have you ever been to Oorodani Prime? No? Well, after you've spent six months supervising anti-smuggling patrols at the hind-end of the Empire, after you've been made the scapegoat for the treason of your commanding officer-- oh, and after you've made Captain, then you may tell me how to run my ship!

Bulloc then controls himself with a visible effort, smoothing his uniform and turning back to Mede.

BULLOC (CONT'D)
Where was I? Ah, yes, my career.

WHACK! Destri tries to get up, holding her throat.

BULLOC (CONT'D)
Oh, I said that already didn't I?

WHACK!

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - HANGAR BAY

Vader and his stormtroopers take Moon to the awaiting supply ship. Vader turns to the old man.

VADER
You should have stayed on Had Abbadon, Sir Mimuné. We had an agreement. The Emperor will not be so kind this time.

MOON
Ach, stay on that hellhole forever? I think not! But impatience is a trait I know you are familiar with, Anakin.

Vader pauses. Moon glances over to the *Big Black Mariah* before he boards the supply ship.

EXT. SPACE - POTHOR SYSTEM - ON THE BLOCKADE RUNNER

gunning it towards the Star Destroyer *Atonement*.

INT. *NOON UNION V* - COCKPIT - SPACE

Bre and Endigo steer for the *Atonement*'s hangar bay. Then the supply ship drops out of it and passes them. Endigo looks at the supply ship, concerned.

BRE
What is it?

ENDIGO
Vader. And Moon.

BRE
MOON?

Bre starts to give chase to the supply ship.

ENDIGO
No, Bre.

BRE
But you want Vader--

ENDIGO
Lesson one, kid.

BRE
Swear you'll help me find Moon after?

ENDIGO
Swear. Now here's the plan. First off, it won't quite break in half....

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - BRIDGE

Bulloc has Mede's bloody face up to his own, about to bash it again, when an ALARM comes over the tactical grid. Lieutenant Estapa scans to see what it is. Mede starts laughing. Bulloc drops him.

LIEUTENANT ESTAPA
We have a known Alliance Corellian Corvette approaching from Pothor!

BULLOC
What are you waiting for? Blow them out of the sector!

LIEUTENANT ESTAPA
All troops, report to the hangar bay. Repeat: all stormtroopers fall back from your present positions to defend the hangar bay.

LIEUTENANT ODET
We didn't have the personnel to man the turbolaser batteries, sir, with so many Rebels still at large.

MEDE
Best to have secured the ship, Bulloc. But I thought it better that you should whine until Mr. Endigo arrived.

LIEUTENANT ESTAPA
They're closing fast, Captain.

LIEUTENANT ODET
Endigo? We don't have enough <u>men</u>....

DESTRI
Bulloc.

Destri pulls a holdout blaster from her boot and blows a hole through Bulloc's chest.

DESTRI (CONT'D)
<u>That</u> was for Townowi.

When Bulloc hits the floor, most of the stormtroopers guarding the Rebel officers turn to see what happened. The Bridge Officers immediately attack them, knocking some to the floor and taking their rifles. A confused melee breaks out. Destri blasts a stormtrooper, snatches up his rifle, and throws it to Mede.

STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - HANGAR BAY

A hundred or more stormtroopers are gathered around the Blockade Runner, its vents still steaming from its recent landing. The starship has docked sideways into the bay, but its loading ramp has yet to open. Some stormtroopers begin to set up laser tripod cannons.

Then an escape pod jettisons out of the starboard side of the Blockade Runner and back into space.

The Blockade Runner EXPLODES as the thermal-net inside it activates. All the stormtroopers are caught in the overwhelming blast of fire that rolls out over the bay.

INT. ESCAPE POD

Bre smiles, puts down the datapad, and lifts a comlink.

BRE
No one hurt but <u>evil</u> people. Your turn.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - BRIDGE

Lieutenant Estapa and the Imperials have forced Mede, Destri, and the Bridge Officers back into the lower command stations. Suddenly, Lieutenant Odet’s face turns white.

Outside the bridge’s front viewports, one glove removed from his spacesuit, its attachment point sealed around his cybernetic wrist, floats Shen Endigo, his lightsaber ignited. Endigo quickly slices a hole into the viewport. KLAXON ALARMS go off at the breach. A rising WHOOSH of air accompanies the CRACKING GLASS of the viewport window. Endigo pulls himself in, hits the interior gravitation still held in check by failing sealant fields, and settles to the floor. Another ALARM goes off.

LIEUTENANT ODET
The magnetic shield is oscillating! He's cut the sealant relay from outside! Retreat!

The emergency blast doors to the bridge SLAM shut. Everyone stands still as the air starts to ROAR out of the bridge. Endigo lifts his lightsaber and smiles.

ENDIGO
(garbled)
You have five minutes air left. Assuming I stop.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - HANGAR BAY

The hangar bay is a wreck. The AT-AT dropship can barely stand upright, but it is open wide, and the Imperial prisoners are marching in. Mede, Destri, Endigo, Hulda, and Commander Avarese watch. Endigo starts to exit.

MEDE (CONT'D)
Where are you going, Mr. Endigo?

ENDIGO
Another month in detention, right? Or is it ninety, my case? I lost count.

MEDE
'We kill him instead of each other. We forget about all of this until it's done.' Those were the exact terms, Mr. Endigo.

Endigo nods. The Admiral holds out a hand to shake on it.

MEDE (CONT'D)
Captain Destri, I think it's time we broke radio silence.

HULDA CAULP
Say, where's the *Big Black Mariah*?

Everyone looks around the wreckage. Not there. It's gone.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - MOON'S QUARTERS

Bre is crying in Moon's quarters when Destri enters.

BRE
Tet...Tet, I-I'm sorry I--

DESTRI
Just come here. You have to see this.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* - SUBSECTION EIGHTEEN

Mede, Endigo, Hulda, and Destri wait until Bre decides to turn on the holoprojector. She stares at holo-Moon, trying not to cry. As he rambles on, she starts to laugh silently.

MOON
Yes, yes, yes, it was me that borrowed the *Big Black Mariah*. A horrible name for a beautiful ship, by the way. But what you really must be wondering is how I escaped Vader. There are <u>so</u> many ways I could explain it. You should choose which one you can believe the most. 1) I mind tricked him into letting me go, 2) my powers teleported me to the freighter in the nick of time, or 3) this hologram transmission is as fraudulent as that of Senator Antilles. Rest assured, it is <u>not</u> number 3. To my lovely Miss Chori Bre, I have come to the conclusion that I cannot stay aboard the *Atonement*. You see now the kind of enemies <u>I</u> attract. Honor will not permit me to bring their wrath upon you again. Some day, after I have destroyed the Empire, we will see each other again. To everyone else, thank you and goodbye. I will never forget our brief sojourn together. Yours forever... Sir Yoat Mimuné, Jedi Knight.

IRIS OUT.

<u>THE END</u>